Oldest Cost

Established

The Weather

Today: Sunny, high 75°F (24°C) Tonight: Clear, low 62°F (17°C) Tomorrow: Sunny, high 75°F (24°C) Details, Page 2

me 128, Number 33

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

Democratic National Convention Characterized By Airport-Style Security, Crowds of Delegates

In a city with a history of air quality issues, the event kicked off with tightly scripted festivities, even as outsiders raised concerns about a

Reporter's Notebook

A massive show of police force was present to minimize any potentially embarrassing protests. The theme of the day was "One World, One Dream." Oops. That was the Olympics. The theme of the day was "One Nation," but other than that, everything else I wrote also applied to Monday's opening of the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

I went to the convention with the hope of finding out what actually happens in a convention that can't be seen on TV and why a college student, namely an MIT student, should care about the convention. It took a while for me to even try to get those questions answered.

Security was tight around Denver. Barricades and fences funneled convention attendees into the Pepsi



Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) is seen speaking at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Colorado on Monday.

Center. The scene could have been from a movie depicting a stream of refugees fleeing some catastrophic event, except in this case, the refugees were often wearing suits and ties. Eventually, I made it through an airport-style security checkpoint.

I entered the Pepsi Center, after

showing my press pass once again, but I didn't know what to do next. Attendees were mingling through-

DNC, Page 12

Dental Plan Launched By GSC

By Jeff Guo

This year, for the first time ever, graduate students will be able to purchase basic dental insurance through

Sign-up for the MIT graduate student dental plan, which charges a fixed annual fee and covers cleanings and checkups by in-network dentists, began Sunday at graddental.mit.edu, a Web site run by the Graduate Student Council. The deadline for plan enrollment is Sept. 15, 2008.

Insured and operated by Delta Dental of Massachusetts, the Delta Dental Preferred Provider Option Value plan costs \$225.96 for individuals or \$571.44 for families, and runs the entire year from Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009. Only graduate students and their families are eligible.

Similar to the Boston University

Insurance, Page 14

\$3 Mil. Project To Upgrade **Stata Snow Facilities**

By John A. Hawkinson

MIT has initiated a \$3 million project to upgrade the snow-melting systems on the Stata Center, MIT Building 32.

The project, scheduled to be completed by Nov. 15, will add snow retention systems on the building, as well as "melting equipment on sloped area[s] where retention is not practical," according to John G. Engle, a Facilities project manager.

Engle explains that last winter, the Stata Center had problems with ice and snow falling off the building, and that this project should address safety concerns with that falling material

MIT filed a lawsuit last October against Stata Center architects and builders Gehry Partners and Skanska USA over a myriad of design and construction failures that include drainage problems and cracking of the amphitheater area, persistent leaks, mold growth, as well as sliding ice and snow.

Engle said that the current project was unrelated to water leaks throughout the building, and that snow and ice were not a significant contributor to those issues. Leaking in the building has been addressed with a series of short-term measures, Engle said. Facilities will be engaging in future projects to address those issues in the long-term.

Design work for the project was performed by Simpson Gumpertz & Heger of Waltham, Mass. The construction services have been awarded to Consigli Construction of Milford,

Mass. Facilities will release updates on this and other projects at their Web http://web.mit.edu/facilities/ construction/.

Three Dorms to Undergo Network Improvements; Analog Phones Removed

By Jenny Liu

Three dormitories — Burton-Conner, MacGregor House, and Green Hall — are undergoing construction to modernize the buildings' network services.

The process, a joint effort by Housing and Information Services and Technology with help from Facilities, will remove the analog phone lines that currently run to each dorm room and will provide the dorms with the latest network infrastructure that IS&T offers.

The new network setup in each building will be the same as the one being deployed in new graduate dormitory NW35, or Ashdown House,

The three dorms have some of the oldest wiring on campus and are definitely in need of the upgrade, Director of Housing Dennis J. Collins said. Along with Ashdown House, the buildings will be the first dorms on campus to receive infrastructure upgrades.

The buildings are currently being rewired, with two or three new telephone closets installed in each one. Collins said he expects the system to be up and running by early September for Green Hall, with Burton-Conner and MacGregor finished by early October.

In the meantime, residents may

<u>Did You Know?</u>

Building Pronunciations

- ¶ Koch (Bldg. 68): COKE
- ¶ Stata Center (Bldg. 32): STAY-ta
- ¶ Broad (Bldg. NE30, etc.): BRODE

experience network service outages from time to time as old wiring is pulled out of each building and new equipment installed.

No more analog phones in rooms

The rooms in each of the three dorms will no longer have analog phone lines once renovations are complete.

Instead, analog phones will be installed in common areas such as suite lounges and hallways, and all residents of the affected buildings will be issued personal SIP accounts. These accounts give students a phone number that can receive voice mail or be forwarded to another phone

While all members of the MIT community can apply for SIP accounts on IS&T's Web site, Housing decided to automatically issue accounts to all residents of the affected

MIT directory entries will reflect the SIP numbers, and audio from voice mail will be sent by default to MIT e-mail accounts.

Collins said that most of the students he has talked to do not use the analog phones in their rooms. Theresa M. Regan, director of IS&T Operations and Infrastructure Services,

Upgrades, Page 10

Jessop Discusses Role as UA President, Goals for New Year

By Ji Qi

This is the third interview in a five-part series introducing incoming students to some of MIT's faculty, staff, and student leaders. Today, The Tech features an interview with Noah S. Jessop '09, the president of the Undergraduate Association. Jessop and UA Vice President Michael A. Bennie '10 also wrote an opinion column on page 4.

The Tech: Tell me about your role within the undergraduate community as UA President.

Noah Jessop: The UA President serves the function of operating one of the largest switchboards on campus. My role is to connect students,



Noah S. Jessop '09 is the Under-

graduate Association President.

faculty and administrators to each other in a way that [allows for] the most effective use of everyone's time and resources ... it is my responsibility to chart the course that the UA takes for the year. Also, a large part of the role is to express students' pressing needs. I also answer a lot of questions on both sides. Lastly, at least on the student government side, I help design and rebuild and make better the systems that already exist.

TT: For those who don't know, can you give a brief synopsis of what the Undergraduate Association

NJ: The undergraduate association is the umbrella of all student government at MIT. DormCon focuses on issues that are closely tied with the residence halls on campus while IFC controls, polices, and generally self regulates the entire frater nity counsel. Panhel similarly regulates, controls and really has a lot of autonomy, along with IFC, overseeing those jurisdictions ...

The challenges we face are the ones that will effect the entire student body. So that would range from undergraduate enrollment ... changes to the GIR's ... [and] advising. That's all on the sort of heavy academic side, but our dining committee, for example, has played a very active role in helping chart the course of dining at MIT as well as really going to bat for the students.

Jessop, Page 10

News

Harvard University launches an investigation into the campus police department after complaints of racism

Page 15

& Nation											. 2
on											. 4
											. 5
es & Fun P	ages	١.,									. 6
Log											10
3			•			•					16
	on	ones & Fun Pages	ones & Fun Pageses	ones & Fun Pageses Log	ones & Fun Pageses	ones & Fun Pageses	ones & Fun Pageses	& Nation			

Page 2 THE TECH August 27, 2008

World & Nation

Michigan Governor Will Hold Proceedings on Kilpatrick

By Susan Saulny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROI

In a blow to Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick's tenuous grip on his job, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm of Michigan announced on Tuesday that she will hold proceedings next week that could result in the Detroit mayor's removal.

Kilpatrick, who stands accused of 10 felony counts in two separate criminal cases, will have to defend himself before Granholm, who under state law is authorized to convene the proceedings.

The Detroit City Council, which has no authority to remove Kilpatrick from office, had asked Granholm to take up the matter after having unsuccessfully urged the mayor to resign.

The proceedings — and whether they would happen at all — have been the subject of speculation for weeks because they pit two of the state's high-ranking Democrats against each other.

Afghanistan's Opium Crop Shrinks After Record High, U.N. Says

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's opium harvest has dropped from last year's record high, the United Nations announced Tuesday, contending that the tide of opium that engulfed Afghanistan in ever rising harvests since 2001 was finally showing signs of ebbing.

"The opium floodwaters in Afghanistan have started to recede," Antonio Maria Costa, the executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, wrote in the foreword to the 2008 edition of the annual opium survey, published Tuesday. "Afghan society has started to make progress in its fight against opium," Costa added.

Poppy cultivation has dropped by 19 percent since 2007, and has fallen beneath 2006 levels as well, the report said. The harvest is also down, although by a lesser margin because of greater yields, dropping by 6 percent to an estimated 8,500 tons.

More than half of Afghanistan's provinces have now been declared poppy free — that is, 18 of 34 provinces grow few or no poppies, up from 13 poppy-free provinces last year.

Zimbabwe Parliament Opens With Jeers And Arrests

By Celia W. Dugger

and Alan Cowell

OHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRIC

President Robert Mugabe opened Zimbabwe's parliament on Tuesday to rambunctious heckling from opposition lawmakers, just hours after the police arrested three more of them, bringing the total to five.

Mugabe, who has ruled the country for 28 increasingly repressive years, declared that he had "every expectation" of striking a power-sharing deal with the opposition, but his government seemed to be further embittering its rivals and complicating prospects for a settlement by locking them up.

The police had sought to arrest eight members of parliament before they could vote Monday for the powerful position of speaker of the lower house, opposition officials said, but backed off when legislators summoned reporters. The opposition's candidate for speaker won on Monday by a margin of 12 votes. For the first time since the country became independent in 1980, the opposition gained a majority in parliament.

But between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. on Tuesday, legislators wanted by the police heard a knock on the doors of their hotel rooms. Their lawyer, Alec Muchadehama, who said he feared for their lives, counseled them not to let anyone in until he arrived. Later Tuesday morning, they were taken into custody. More than 100 opposition supporters have been killed since Zimbabwe's disputed elections in March, human rights groups say.

Markets React to Russia's Recognition of Separatists

By Andrew E. Kramer THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

The effects of Russia's first foreign war as a capitalist country rippled Tuesday through the Moscow stock markets, which dipped to their lowest level since 2006. The loss of billions of dollars in paper value is confronting the Kremlin with a dimension to its geopolitical posturing that never existed during the Cold War, even as Russia seemed to be consolidating its gains after the Georgia conflict.

The RTS stock market fell 6.1 percent on Tuesday after President Dmitri A. Medvedev recognized two separatist regions in Georgia. The sell-off was deepened by grim warnings from Western leaders of unspecified diplomatic or economic retaliation for the

The war of words apparently spooked foreign investors, who fled what they fear will grow into a full-scale falling out with the West over Russia's actions in Georgia. The market recovered somewhat, ending the day down 4.1 percent, but investors were glum about its prospects.

"The market perception is extremely negative," said James R.

Fenkner, chairman of Red Star Management, a Moscow hedge fund. "They're being perceived as the evil empire. They're going to have to do some serious things to change it."

Russia is not about to go broke, as it did in the financial collapse of 1998. Any Western effort to punish Russia economically will surely be softened by the surging demand for Russian oil and natural gas in Western Europe and Asia

Moreover, while the stock market stumbled, the country's trade surplus and the profits of its leading energy companies remained as robust as ever. Russia holds about \$600 billion in foreign exchange and gold reserves.

Over the weekend, Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin noted that Russia was on track to meet his goal of doubling its 2003 gross domestic product by 2010.

But since the start of the conflict in Georgia on Aug. 7, the ruble has slid 4 percent against the dollar in spite of intervention by the central bank, and the cost of insuring Russian sovereign and corporate bonds has risen steeply. In another worrisome sign for the economy, Russian officials said Monday that they saw little chance of

Russia joining the World Trade Organization.

The talks had in any case been stalled over import tariffs for airplanes, with implications for Boeing, and Russia's poor record on protecting intellectual property rights.

While warning of consequences for Russia if its troops do not quickly withdraw from Georgia, Western leaders have not made any specific threats, but possible measures include barring Russia from WTO membership, expelling it from the Group of Eight industrialized countries or withholding visas and freezing offshore bank accounts of Russian political leaders.

Those penalties could sting far more sharply in today's Russia than they would have during the days of the Soviet Union, because many of the top officials in government also sit on the boards of directors of state companies.

Medvedev, for example, was chairman of the natural gas monopoly Gazprom until his inauguration in May. Gazprom, the world's second-largest publicly traded energy company after ExxonMobil of the United States, lost 3 percent of its value on Tuesday.

Kennedy Left Hospital Bed to Give Talk at Convention

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy had just left a hospital bed here when he delivered his speech to the Democratic National Convention on Monday night, after suffering a debilitating bout of kidney stones on Sunday upon arriving in town, aides said.

Kennedy's aides described a harrowing 48-hour period in which it appeared that Kennedy would not be able to give the convention speech. In June, he had told family members when he left the Duke University Medical Center, where he was operated on for brain cancer, that he was intent on giving the speech.

And with less than two hours to go before he was supposed to take the stage, Kennedy — sitting unnoticed in a room at the University of Colorado Hospital — told his wife,

Victoria, and doctors that he wanted to go to the Pepsi Center and deliver the speech.

He was driven there, accompanied by a doctor and paramedics, perched on a golf cart that took him inside. Kennedy, with his wife and his niece Caroline at his side, walked gingerly onto the stage, where he delivered a highly acclaimed address. He then returned to the hospital, where he spent the night.

This sequence of events described by Kennedy associates added another dramatic layer to the appearance by Kennedy that riveted Democrats and produced a sustained and tearful reception among the delegates.

His aides said that after Kennedy finally decided he was well enough to come to Denver over the weekend, they became alarmed when he arrived on Sunday after a long charter airplane flight, accompanied by family members, aides and doctors, and reported being in excruciating pain.

Their first concern was that the pain was somehow related to his cancer, or the chemotherapy and radiology he had undergone, and that it had been complicated by the long flight or the high altitude of the city. A visit to a local hospital Sunday night revealed it was kidney stones and was unrelated to his cancer.

Kennedy had no previous history of kidney stones, aides said.

One close associate, who requested anonymity to discuss any element of Kennedy's medical condition, disclosed that the senator had suffered an unspecified but serious setback in July after he flew to Washington in the midst of treatment to cast a vote on a Medicare bill.

WEATHER

Martian Weather Report

By Angela Zalucha

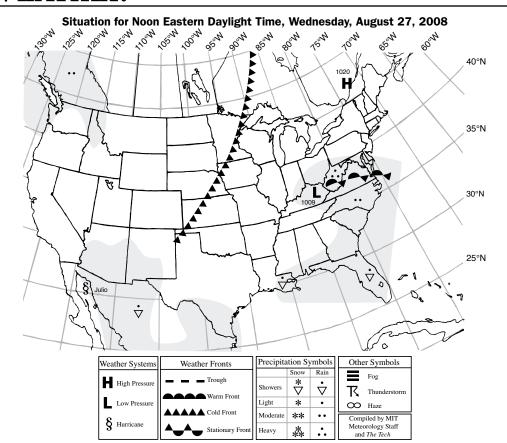
You may have heard in the news about the Mars Phoenix Lander, currently taking soil samples near the Martian north pole. A somewhat less publicized fact is the temperature data being taken by its weather sensor. At the lander site, yesterday's high temperature was -17°F (-27°C) while the low temperature was -117°F (-83°C). And this is in the middle of summer! It is estimated that the record maximum temperature on Mars, say, on the hottest summer day at the equator, would be around 70°F (21°C). The coldest day at the winter pole can only fall to the carbon dioxide frost temperature of -190°F (-123°C), since then Mars' carbon dioxide atmosphere begins to sublimate. No equivalent exists on Earth, since it never gets cold enough for our predominately nitrogen atmosphere to freeze out. At least there's no rain, but you might get stuck in a dust storm that can last for several months!

Back to Earth's weather, the rest of the week will continue to be dry and pleasantly warm. The next chance for rain looks to be Saturday night, when a cold front moves through our area.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 75°F (24°C). **Tonight:** Clear. Low 62°F (17°C). **Tomorrow:** Sunny. High 75°F (24°C).

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 61°F (16°C). **Friday:** Mostly cloudy. High 73°F (23°C).



Taliban Victory Underscores Weakness of Afghan Forces

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN
The Taliban bomber calmly parked a white fuel tanker near the prison gates of this city one evening in June, then jumped down from the cab and let out a laugh. Prison guards fired on the bomber as he ran off, but they missed, instead killing the son of a local shopkeeper, who watched the scene unfold from across the street.

Seconds later, the Taliban fired a rocket-propelled grenade into the tanker, setting off an explosion that killed the prison guards, destroyed nearby buildings, and opened up a breach in the prison walls as wide as a highway. Nearly 900 prisoners escaped in the jailbreak, 350 of them members of the Taliban, in one of the worst security lapses in Afghanistan in the six years since the U.S. intervention here.

The jailbreak, on June 13, was a spectacular propaganda coup for the Taliban, not only in freeing their comrades and flaunting their strength but also in exposing the weakness of the Afghan government, its army and the police, as well as the international forces trying to secure Kandahar.

In the weeks since the jailbreak, security has further deteriorated in this southern Afghan city, once the de facto capital of the Taliban, that has become a renewed front line in the battle against the radical Islamist movement

The failure of the U.S.-backed Afghan government to protect Kandahar has rippled across the rest of the country and complicated the task of NATO forces, which have suffered more deaths here this year than at any time since the 2001 invasion.

"We don't have a system here; the government does not have a solution," said Abdul Aleem, who fought the Taliban and helped to put some of its members in the prison. They are on the loose again, and he now faces death threats and sits in his garden with a Kalashnikov on the chair beside him.

He said that without the presence of international forces in the city, the situation would be even worse. "If we did not have foreigners here, I don't think the Afghan National Army or police would come out of their bases," he said.

A rising chorus of complaints equally scathing about the failings of the government can be heard around the country.

The collapsing confidence in the government of President Hamid Karzai is so serious that if the Taliban had wanted to, they could have seized control of the city of Kandahar on the night of the prison break, one Western diplomat in Kabul said. The only reason they did not was because they did not expect the Afghan government and the NATO reaction to be so weak, he said.

Interviews with local officials and other people here who witnessed the bold prison break and its aftermath show that the level of government organization and security was woefully inadequate around what was clearly a high-priority target for the Taliban.

There were only 10 prison guards on duty that night guarding about 1,400 prisoners, said Col. Abdullah Bawar, the new head of the prison.

Five of them were killed in the attack. Three of the guards — Bawar's son, his nephew and the son of another warden — died at the front gate when the tanker exploded.

North Korea Threatens to Reactivate Nuclear Facilities

By Choe Sang-Hun

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

North Korea said Tuesday that it had stopped disabling its main nuclear complex, and threatened to restore facilities there that the North has used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons unless the United States removed it from a terrorist list.

For months, U.S. experts and North Korean engineers have been disabling key facilities at the complex at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, in a move that temporarily shut down the North's only known source of plutonium.

If North Korea rebuilds the facilities in defiance of the United States and a coalition of major powers that have sought to disarm North Korea, it would nullify a major foreign policy achievement of the Bush administration.

North Korea often issues strident warnings as a negotiating tactic, but nonetheless the latest declaration dimmed the Bush administration's hopes of achieving a breakthrough in the North's nuclear disarmament before President Bush leaves office in January

The State Department described the announcement as a "step backward."

"This certainly is in violation of their commitments to the six-party framework," a State Department spokesman, Robert Wood, told reporters, according to Reuters.

North Korea accused Washington of not keeping its promise to take the North off a terrorism blacklist. The United States wants North Korea to agree to a comprehensive method of checking whether it withheld information in a report on its past nuclear activities before it removes North Korea from the blacklist.

A White House spokesman, Tony Fratto, said North Korea had informed Washington that it halted its work at the plant temporarily. "We've informed North Korea that we will take action to rescind its designation when it fulfills its commitment regarding verification," he said.

The state-run news agency KCNA quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "We have decided to immediately suspend disabling our nuclear facilities. This

measure has been effective on Aug. 14 and related parties have been notified of it."

Work started at Yongbyon late last year to disable a nuclear reactor, along with a factory that produces fuel for the reactor and a laboratory that can extract plutonium from spent fuel rods unloaded from the reactor. North Korea demolished the reactor's cooling tower in June.

It would take at least a year to restart the disabled facilities, experts said

Disabling the complex does not meet Washington's ultimate goal of dismantling it. The United States wants full access by inspectors to all suspected nuclear sites in the secretive communist country to ensure that there are no hidden nuclear assets.

The North bristled at this demand. "The U.S. is gravely mistaken if it thinks it can make a house search in our country as it pleases, just as it did in Iraq," the North Korean spokesman said.

He said North Korea was still technically at war with the United States because the 1950-53 Korean War had ended only in a cease-fire.

Increase in Government Health Plans Helped Turn Tide in 2007

By Ian Urbina
THE NEW YORK TIMES

S W

WASHINGTON

After climbing steadily for six years, the number of Americans without health insurance dropped by more than a million in 2007, to 45.7 million, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

The drop was the result of growth in government-sponsored health insurance programs, officials said, most of them focused on children. At the same time, the number of people covered by private insurance continued to decline.

Experts cautioned that the report, which also included data on income and poverty, did not take into account the economic downturn that began late last year, and therefore it probably presents a rosier picture than the current economic reality.

According to the report, the nation's median household income rose by 1.3 percent in 2007, to \$50,233, the third consecutive annual increase. The nation's poverty rate remained flat at 12.5 percent, the report said.

"The data in this report refer to

last year, when everything was different," said Jared Bernstein, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal policy group in Washington. "This year, we're losing jobs on a monthly basis, inflation is running well over 5 percent, and unemployment was last seen at 5.7 percent and rising."

Health-care experts and advocates for the poor said the report also presented an outdated picture regarding health insurance. The rate of people without health insurance declined to 15.3 percent in 2007, from 15.8 percent a year earlier.

"In 2007, at least 26 states made efforts to expand coverage, but as the economy has turned downward so have state efforts," said Diane Rowland, executive vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Rowland added that insurance premiums had risen faster than wages and inflation, causing more people to seek insurance from public programs.

The census report, she said, highlights the importance of expanding government health-care plans like the State Children's Health Insurance

In December, President Bush signed legislation that extends federal financing for the program through the end of March 2009. That action came after he vetoed two congressional attempts to expand the program.

David Johnson, chief of the Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division at the Census Bureau, said that the number of people covered by private insurance declined in 2007, but that the overall number of people who were uninsured went down because of federal and state programs. "The fall in private insurance was similar to recent years," Johnson said. "That fall was offset by the rise in government insurance."

The number of people under 18 without insurance dropped to 11 percent, or 8.1 million, in 2007, from 11.7 percent, or 8.7 million, a year earlier.

Over all, the percentage of people covered by government programs rose to 27.8 percent in 2007 from 27 percent the year before.

Home Prices Still Falling, But the Pace Is Slowing

By Michael M. Grynbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Home sales have begun to stabilize as sharply reduced prices lured buyers back into the market in July, according to a pair of reports issued this week. And prices, once plummeting at a breakneck pace, fell in June at a more moderate clip.

But prices will have to keep falling, economists said Tuesday, before the housing market can make a full recovery. Much of the buying last month stemmed from fire sales of foreclosed homes. And prices are expected to keep sagging under the weight of an enormous backlog of unsold homes.

For now, "it's still a buyer's market, and likely to be so for a while," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist of PNC Bank. "Homebuyers are holding all the aces."

A report on Tuesday showed that in the 12 months through June, American home values dropped 15.9 percent, the biggest annual decline on record.

All 20 cities measured in the report, the Case-Shiller index, reported annual declines in June, with seven cities showing price drops of more than 20 percent. A separate 10-city price index, which began in 1988, was off 17 percent, its worst annual reading ever.

Rice Criticizes Surge in Settlement Construction

By Ethan Bronner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Peace Now, the Israeli advocacy group, said in a report released Tuesday that in the last year Israel had nearly doubled its settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, in violation of its obligations under an American-backed peace plan.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in Jerusalem on a short visit to help Israeli and Palestinian leaders in their negotiations, said when asked about the report that she had told Israeli officials that such building did not advance the cause of peace.

"What we need now are steps that enhance confidence between the parties, and anything that undermines confidence between the parties ought to be avoided," she said with the Israeli foreign minister, Tzipi Livni at her side

Livni said that settlement building should not influence the negotiations because the goal should be "not to let any kind of noises that relate to the situation on the ground these days enter the negotiation room."

Earlier, Rice had made clear that neither Israelis nor Palestinians had fully lived up to their obligations. Israel is supposed to end all settlement building and remove illegal settlement outposts, while the Palestinians are supposed to dismantle terrorist infrastructures.

Negotiators had hoped for a full two-state peace framework between the Palestinian Authority and Israel to be completed by the end of President Bush's term. Lately, though, they have cautioned that such an aim may be out of reach although the talks, they say, are making progress.

Nearly 600 Were Arrested in Factory Raid, Officials Say

By Adam Nossiter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal officials on Tuesday revised upward to 595 the number of suspected illegal immigrants arrested in a raid on a Laurel, Miss., factory this week, making it the largest immigration crackdown on a U.S. workplace in recent years.

On Monday, the day of the raid, officials said that at least 350 people had been arrested.

Officials said that 475 of the immigrants were immediately taken by bus to a detention center in the remote northern Louisiana town of Jena, and would face deportation. At least eight appeared in federal court in Hattiesburg, Miss., on Tuesday, where they faced criminal charges of aggravated identity theft, which usually means stealing a Social Security number or using a false address.

Of the 595 arrested, 106 were temporarily released for what Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials called "humanitarian" reasons — because of illness, or the need to care for children — though they still face deportation. Nine unaccompanied 17-year-olds were taken into custody by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The relatively low number of criminal cases could represent a shift in government policy, several immigration experts said, particularly in view of the hundreds who were prosecuted and sent to jail after a similar raid at a meatpacking plant at Postville, Iowa, in May.

U.S. Airstrikes Killed 90 Civilians, Including 60 Children, U.N. Finds

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A U.N. human rights team has found "convincing evidence" that 90 civilians — among them 60 children — were killed in airstrikes on a village in western Afghanistan's Herat province on Friday, according to the U.N. mission in Kabul.

If the assertion proves to be correct, this would almost certainly be the deadliest case of civilian casualties caused by any U.S. military operation in Afghanistan since 2001.

The U.N. statement adds pressure to the U.S. military, which maintains that only that 25 militants and 5 civilians were killed in the airstrikes, but has ordered an investigation after Afghan officials reported the higher civilian death toll.

The U.N. team visited the scene and interviewed survivors and local officials and elders, getting a name, age and gender of each person reported killed. The team reported that 15 people had been wounded in the airstrikes.

The numbers closely match those given by a government commission sent from Kabul to investigate the bombing, which put the total dead at up to 95.

Mohammad Iqbal Safi, the head of the parliamentary defense committee and a member of the government commission, said the 60 children were between 3 months old and 16 years old, all killed as they slept. "It was a heartbreaking scene," he said.

Page 4 THE TECH August 27, 2008

OPINION

Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitzman '09

Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich '09

Business Manager Austin Chu '08

Managing Editor
Jessica Witchley '10

Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08

IEWS STAFF

News and Features Director: Angeline Wang '09; Editors: Arkajit Dey '11, Jeff Guo '11, Natasha Plotkin '11; Associate Editors: Ryan Ko '11, Emily Prentice '11; Staff: Curt Fischer G, Ray C. He G, Ramya Sankar G, John A. Hawkinson '98, Daniela Cako '09, Mei-Hsin Cheng '09, Diana Jue '09, Ji Qi '09, Kirtana Raja '09, Yiwei Zhang '09, Yi Zhou '09, Nick Bushak '10, Yuri Hanada '10, JiHye Kim '10, Joyce Kwan '10, Manisha Padi '10, Joanne Y. Shih '10, Yan Huang '11, Elijah Jordan Turner '11, Lulu Wang '11; Meteorologists: Cegeon Chan G, Jon Moskaitis G, Michael J. Ring G, Roberto Rondanelli G, Scott Stransky G, Brian H. Tang G, John K. Williams G, Angela Zalucha G, Garrett P. Marino '08, Mike Yee '08.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Steve Howland '11; Staff: K. Nichole Treadway '10, Yue Li '11, Mark Yen '11.

OPINION STAF

Editor: Andrew T. Lukmann G; **Staff:** Josh Levinger '07, Ali S. Wyne '08, Krishna Gupta '09, Aditya Kohli '09.

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Aaron Sampson '10; Staff: Albert Ni '09

ARTS STAFF

Editor: Praveen Rathinavelu '10; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Andrew Lee '07, Tyson C. McNulty '08, S. Balaji Mani '10, Tina Ro '10, Kevin Wang '10.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: David M. Templeton '08, Andrea Robles '10, William Yee '10; Staff: Vincent Auyeung G, Alex H. Chan G, Alice Fan G, David Da He G, Maksim Imakaev G, Dmitry Kashlev G, Martin Segado G, Noah Spies G, Scott Johnston '03, Perry Hung '08, Christina Kang '08, Arthur Petron '08, David Reshef '08, Martha Angela Wilcox '08, Ana Malagon '09, Peter H. Rigano '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Jerzy Szablowski '09, Diana Ye '09, Daniel P. Beauboeuf '10, Mindy Eng '10, Helen Hou '10, Monica Kahn '10, Samuel E. Kronick '10, Diane Rak '10, Jongu Shin '10, Dhaval Adjodah '11, Michael Y McCanna '11, Kari Williams '11, Sherry Yan '11.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Charles Lin G; Staff: J. Graham Ruby G, David Shirokoff G, Jason Chan '09, Sarah C. Proehl '09, Michael Ciuffo '11, Michael T. Lin '11; Cartoonists: Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer G, Roberto Perez-Franco G, Ben Peters '11.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Manager: Mark Thompson '11; Operations Manager: Michael Kuo '10; Staff: Jeffrey Chang '08, Cokie Hu '08, Tai Ho Kang '08, Neeharika Bhartiya '10, Jennifer Chu '10, Ritu Tandon '10, Heymian Wong '10.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Ricardo Ramirez '09; **Staff:** Quentin Smith '10.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Rosa Cao G, Brian Hemond G, Valery K. Brobbey '08, Caroline Huang '10; **Senior Editors:** Satwiksai Seshasai G, Jillian A. Berry '08, Shreyes Seshasai '08, Omari Stephens '08, Sarah Dupuis '10.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E. D. Richmond PhD '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Zachary Ozer '07, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Jessica Witchley '10, Steve Howland '11.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$45.00 per year (third class) and \$105.00 (first class). POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2008 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

UA Calls on Incoming Class to 'Seize the Day'

By Noah Jessop and Mike Bennie

Welcome to MIT! Whether you were covered by green Jell-O at Burton Conner's Jell-O wrestling, inspired by Yet-Ming Chang's research, or entertained by life-sized Tetris at East Campus, we are fairly certain that you're aware of the fact that MIT is like no other college. From the 9 a.m. Math Diagnostics Test to rush events running throughout all hours of the night (and morning!), we are sure that you have begun to experience what it means to be an MIT student. These last few days of adrenaline filled all-nighters have been designed to integrate you into MIT's unique experience: too much amazing stuff to fit into a short period of time.

After an exhausting week of dorm events, the other half of MIT's campus comes alive during recruitment/rush. The FSILGs have their own set of events planned such as paint-balling, F1 go-cart racing, and countless BBQs. Whether you decide to pursue this avenue or not, recruitment/rush provides a little more

time to explore Boston, meet your classmates, and eat free food.

Regardless of how you choose to spend you time, make the most of these next few weeks, as it is one of the rare moments the campus is completely unburdened by the MIT academic "fire-hose." Upperclassmen are eager to meet you and show you what they do for fun in the diverse sea of opportunities at MIT. This is a place where there are countless activities available, but you shouldn't feel constrained by your previous experiences: all activities tend to have different levels, be it a Varsity sport or Intramural sport just for fun. Falling into the latter, D-League Ice Hockey is always popular - if you have never seen ice before, there is a good chance that you won't be alone. The Activities Midway (Friday afternoon, in Johnson) is a great place to gather information about the endless ways to procrastinate the problem sets you are soon to enjoy.

At these events, meet lots of people; find out what they did and what they would do differently if given a chance. Nothing says you have decide your next four years this week, but cast a large net now so that you are well informed when the day does come to make a choice.

Above all else, while you have time in your first term, try new things — you never know just what you will like and what people with whom you will choose to surround yourself.

We are the Undergraduate Association (UA), a group of students committed to improving everyday life at MIT. The UA is involved in some way with just about all campus-wide activities: the UA Senate funds over a hundred student groups on campus, the Class Councils hold regular study breaks to help students relax, and the Events Committees (one of ten committees) plans the Fall Festival (this year: Comedian Russell Peters) and Spring Weekend (last year: Third Eye Blind concert). Within the UA, over one hundred students come together in dozens of capacities to help guide the amazing experiences, both socially and academically, that MIT offers.

Want to get involved? We encourage you to contact us at any point this year if you have any questions about MIT or want to become involved in the UA. We will be at the Activities Midway, and look forward to meeting you!

Noah Jessop and Mike Bennie are the President and Vice President of the MIT Undergraduate Association.

The Gender Gap in Science and Engineering

By Gary Shu

During my first run at graduate school, nearly half the students in my engineering research lab were women. My newly appointed and tenured adviser, a decorated researcher from Bell Labs who was eventually awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Grant, was a woman. And looking back at my time there, most of the friends I made were women and the same was true of my undergraduate experience studying electrical engineering. As a result, I feel that even as stereotypical (Asian) male engineer, I well understand the problems that women in science and engineering experience.

This is in spite of the fact that while electrical engineering is not the 'testosterone ghetto' that a modern physics or math department is, most EE classes aren't exactly brimming with today's female youth either. As a guy among guys, we had always wanted women in our classrooms — if only to bring variety to the fraternity atmosphere. At the same, we self-consciously tried not to frighten away the fairer sex toward the liberal arts.

I'm not going to lie — there absolutely is a dose of sexism and discrimination regarding women and their ability in science. The important question is why this continues to exist in spite of the efforts of women's groups and the recent spotlight shone on academic hiring practices. The Lawrence Summers 'brouhaha' at Harvard has led to a reexamination of why math, science, and engineering research appears to be one of the last bastions of sexism, an overwhelmingly male-dominated field when undergraduate colleges overall are now enrolling and graduating more women than men.

As a result, some politicians and women's groups are calling anew for a "Title Nining" of federal science funding — in which research money is guaranteed to be free from

sex discrimination. In some scientific fields, sex discrimination can still run deep, where the department institutions remain a fossilized artifact from the last century and women are clearly and plainly discouraged from participating. There is no question such transgressions should be punished and these are cases where the loss of grant money is a just penalty

However, using the power of the purse to enforce gender equality is a heavy-handed tactic that could lead to awkward and undesirable quota systems. In departments where the culture and influence of a handful of professors is the problem, withdrawing research funds and the use of quotas would be clumsy tools disproportionate to the transgression. This would lead to the further marginalization of women in science departments and an aggravation of the "imposter syndrome" that women in science and engineering already experience too well.

Worse, the "Title Nining" of science research loses sight of the real problem weighing on women today — the scientific research profession itself. The path to achieving research stardom is fraught with uncertainties about location, pay, and success. Academic research, more than many professions, is intensely personal, relying on the tutelage and guidance of a handful of advisers for a better part of a decade. Horror stories abound of how easily a budding research career can be sunk due to the irrationality and whimsy of a respected professor, whose word would always hold sway in front of an academic committee.

New research shows that there are multiple factors that combine to dissuade women from the sciences and research, none of which have to do with discrimination. A recent study from Berkeley lends credibility to the assertion that got then-President Summers in trouble — that there is a greater variation in the math abili-

ties of boys than girls. While the overall ability of boys is, on average, indistinguishable from girls, there are more boys on the high ability end of the scale as well as the low end. When one starts looking at the top tail of that distribution curve (say, the MITs and Harvards of the world), the gender gap could be explained by the difference in the spread of abilities.

To compound this problem, another study finds that women who are technically proficient are also more likely than their male counterparts to be good at other skills, like writing and communications. This opens up the doors to other careers, providing more options for women to find a fulfilling and happy livelihood. Their male classmates, on the other hand, are limited to the occupations that their narrow skill set provides — including scientific research

Topping it off is the old problem of raising a family. For female researchers, there has always been the clash of timelines between the tenure track calendar and the child-raising deadline. Maternity leaves and benefits for graduate students and faculty alike have become more generous over the years. But as more women graduate from the sciences and peer into their future research career, they are noticing that the band-aids for helping women down the tenure track are insufficient. Women are thus choosing more flexible and fulfilling jobs so that down the road they won't have to sacrifice education and career for family. Lacking an overhaul of the academic system, women are continuing to opt out of science.

Discrimination has been and will continue to be a problem for women in the sciences but ultimately, science research as it is practiced today is a demanding occupation. Given their abilities, women are freely and intelligently choosing careers that are more satisfying than scientific research.

Gary Shu is a graduate student in the Engineering Systems Division.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitzman, Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich, Managing Editor Jessica Witchley, Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to *letters@the-tech.mit.edu*. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to <code>general@the-tech.mit.edu</code>, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing <code>eic@the-tech.mit.edu</code>. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to <code>news@the-tech.mit.edu</code>. Letters to the editor should be sent to <code>let-ters@the-tech.mit.edu</code>. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <code>http://www-tech.mit.edu</code>.

Best Movies of Summer 2008

The Rundown On All the Flicks You Should've Seen

By Sarah Dupuis

Now that the start of classes draws ever nearer, it sure does feel like summer's out and school's back in session. Ah, yes ... nothing like the feel of a marble notebook and the sharp taste of Red Bull to make you long for the scent of the ocean, the taste of barbecued patties, and the cool air of a movie theater. Here, we'll bring you right back to the fresh days of early June with reviews and recaps of this summer's releases.

Iron Man

Directed by Jon Favreau

Starring Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard, Gwyneth Paltrow

I'll give a spoiler alert out of courtesy's sake, but if you haven't already seen it, you've probably already heard about all of this anyway. Iron Man was a good summer movie for us nerds at MIT for two distinct reasons: Tony Stark (Downey) wears a Brass Rat and Samuel L. Jackson makes a cameo as S.H.I.E.L.D. director Nick Fury. Beyond that, Downey's gruff humor carries the movie, which doesn't boast excellence in the realm of visual effects. Even the romantic chemistry is off; the generally sparkling Paltrow is one-dimensional and boring as love interest Pepper Potts. Luckily, Iron Man does earn back some points because of the totally necessary inclusion of Black Sabbath on the soundtrack.

The Verdict: A good rainy day movie, but not worth waiting in line.

Sex and the City: The Movie Directed by Michael Patrick King Starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon

Generally when I'm forty minutes late for a movie I'll skip it altogether and see it some other time. For Sex and the City, I should have tried to miss the movie completely. More like throwing up for a movie than showing up for one, Sex and the City settled for easy, unimaginative fixes to the four heroines' respective conflicts. Carrie Bradshaw and company's big return to the screen was just as high in fashion as the film's namesake series, but its former sexual frankness - once groundbreaking and humorous - was blasé and tried this time around. Let's hope the rumors of a sequel don't come true; if so, show up late or plug your ears.

The Verdict: Take your Jimmy Choo's elsewhere

Get Smart

Directed by Peter Segal

Starring Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

A last-resort movie at best, the less-thanstellar remake of a pretty excellent television show features the absolutely bizarre lead combo of The Office's Steve Carell and The Princess Diaries' Anne Hathaway. If the thought of watching two completely sexually unappetizing people make out doesn't turn you off from this movie, let Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, as an evil super agent, be the reason you walk out halfway.

The Verdict: Stay to see Bill Murray in a tree; leave before it turns into Mr. Magoo and James Bond's love child.

Hancock

Directed by Peter Berg

Starring Will Smith, Charlize Theron, Jason Rateman

Over the course of Hancock, it's implied that the titular alcoholic bum of a superhero routinely causes train wrecks. Funny coincidence, because this movie sort of ends like one, although it's admittedly charming for the first eighty or so minutes. Will Smith has the comedy-action combo down pat, Jason Bateman can do no wrong, and Charlize Theron is both funny and sexy (no small feat nowa-

The Verdict: Superhero flick rife with chuckles worth the price of a ticket.

The Dark Knight

Directed by Christopher Nolan Starring Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron

Eckhart, Michael Caine

The yearlong buzz behind The Dark Knight, intensified after the death of lead villain Ledger, was airtight. The second appearance of Nolan's Gotham sees Bruce Wayne (Bale) far developed from the superhero rookie depicted in Batman Begins. Our caped crusader still has the aid of loyal butler Alfred (Caine) and childhood pal Rachel (Maggie "Not Katie Holmes" Gyllenhaal), but this time he's joined by updated bat-radar toys, a bike made out of the Tumbler, and two villains who put Sandman to shame. Eckhart makes a strong presence as pure vanilla D.A. Harvey Dent, the role that will pull the actor out of the ranks of crap like The Black Dahlia. And yes, Heath Ledger's Nicholson-shattering Joker portrayal is chilling, electrifying, and completely deserving of a

The Verdict: If you only see three movies this summer, let it be The Dark *Knight* three times.

posthumous Oscar.

Step Brothers

Directed by Adam McKay Starring Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Richard Jenkins

Though I've found some recent Ferrell comedies distressingly unfunny, Step Brothers proves the man's still got it, and firmly establishes John C. Reilly in the top ranks of today's comedy players. Near-forty stepbrothers Brennan and Dale are inappropriate oddballs occupying their parents' guest rooms with no desire to ever leave the nest. When their 'rents tie the knot, the big boys war over attention but soon find they share tastes in television, food, and dinosaurs. The evolution of their relationship and the ensuing hilarity produce more than a few audible laughs.

The Verdict: Don't miss this chance to see a set on a drum set.

The Mummy 3 Directed by Rob Cohen

Starring Brendan Fraser, Maria Bello, Jet Li, Michelle Yeoh

And speaking of The Rock, where the hell was he in this movie? I thought that dude had dibs on all Mummy sequels. But seriously, I couldn't tell if this was a comedy, an action movie, or a romance. It seemed like the writers were going for a genre-hybrid, but this threequel comes across as a parody on all three levels. Then again, parodies can be pretty funny, too, especially when unintentional. For this reason, Rob Cohen's created the summer's best "so-bad-it's-good" flick, occupied last year by Lindsay Lohan's I Know Who Killed Me.

The Verdict: Rent it, host a Mummy-trilogy drinking marathon, and be drunk by the time this one comes on.

The Rocker

Directed by Peter Cattaneo Starring Rainn Wilson, Christina Applegate,

Emma Stone, Teddy Geiger

Steve Carell occasionally excepted, it's troubling to see Office actors in movies, because the writing is always so much worse than what we're used to seeing around Dunder-Mifflin. The Rocker could very well have been disastrous, but Wilson manages to infuse it with a few genuinely funny moments, all the while staying true to his acting style and not too imitative of character Dwight Schrute. A misguided romance between Wilson and Applegate, an annoying and homogeneous "alternative" teen girl, and some unnecessary family morals almost put this on Josie and the Pussycats level, but Teddy Geiger's sugary pop is a surprisingly decent step up from the typical teen band movie's soundtrack.

The Verdict: If you've ever wished Dwight Schrute played drums for Guns N' Roses fronted by The Jonas Brothers, you'll probably like this movie.

Pineapple Express

Directed by David Gordon Green

Starring Seth Rogen, James Franco, Amber

The smart stoner's answer to the Harolds and Kumars of the world (no disrespect. White Castle), Pineapple Express is a fantastic comedy with clear action influences that just happens to feature a lot of marijuana. James Franco is hilarious and convincing as longhaired good-hearted small-time dealer Saul. Seth Rogen plays a perfect the straight man to a T as law-abiding but constantly stoned court processor Dale. A great buddy flick with an undeniable soundtrack, Pineapple Express works just as well for a date with your bro, a date with your ho, or a date with your bong.

The Verdict: Definitely see it, and definitely see it high.

Vicky Christina Barcelona Directed by Woody Allen

Starring Scarlett Johansson, Rebecca Hall,

Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz

When did Woody Allen become so much less funny and so much more pervy? Seems like he took a bunch of attractive people to Barcelona, vacationed, and then realized he had to write a movie to justify being there. Horrible dialogue and a beyond-irritating narrator mar this beautifully shot vacation movie, which is only remedially saved by Bardem and Cruz's real-life chemistry and comic timing as a manic couple in the art world.

The Verdict: Skip it unless you're a Woody Allen completist.

Only the MIT Coop has USED books

Buy online and get

First Dibs on our supply of **Used Books**

Buy your textbooks early @ www.thecoop.com.

Buying used textbooks saves you 25% off the price of new!



3 Cambridge Ctr. (@ the Kendall Sq. T station) t:617-499-3200 f:617-621-0856 e:mittextbooks@thecoop.com

The Council for the Arts at MIT Next Grants Deadline: Friday, September 26, 2008

First-time applicants are required to meet with a member of the Council staff to discuss their proposals

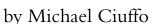
Please contact Susan Cohen at cohen@media.mit.edu to set up an appointment

Grants guidelines are available at:

http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html

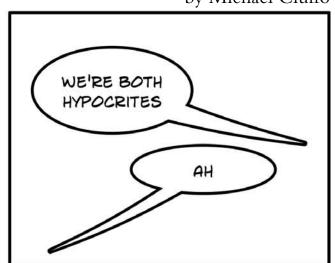
The COMORD CS August 27, 2008 Page P COS 6

Steal My Comic





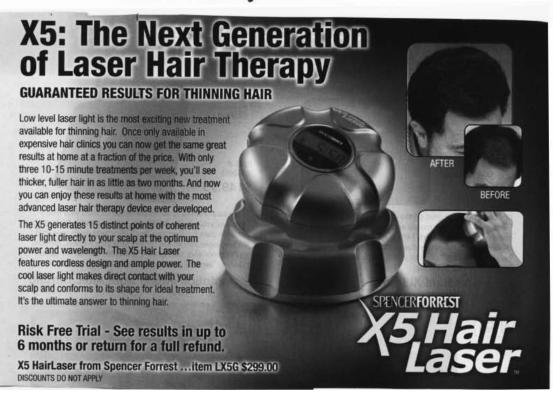




The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

Ad from skymall



What it means:

Apparently you can use lasers to grow hair as well as remove it.

This actually makes sense.

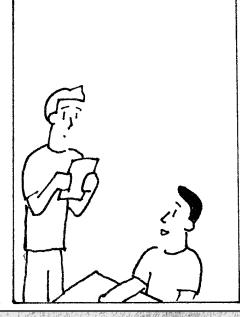
Think about what you know about the death star and Darth Vader's head.

Now we know why he built it.

Theory of Pete

by Cai GoGwilt









An unlocked gun could be the death of your family.

Please lock up your gun.



www.unloadandlock.com

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

This space donated by The Tech

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Blobbles don't judge me!!!

Hey, I think you are starting to go bald.



New to Blobbles? This is how it works: you send me a caption, and I draw a comic! E-mail Blobbles@tech.mit.edu.

by Jason Chan Su do ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 15.

6

© Puzzles by Pappocom

6 5 8 4 4 5 3

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com

ACROSS

- 1 Golfer Ernie
- 4 Scornful remarks 10 Provides the crew
- 14 Old Olds' auto
- 15 Profess

for

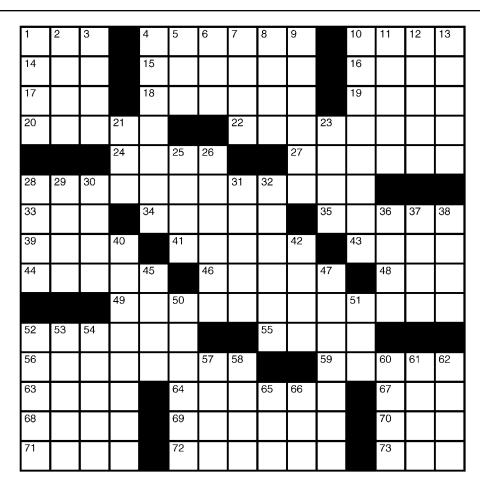
- 16 Orchestra
- instrument 17 Actor Waterston
- 18 Start of Ed Howe auote
- 19 Ancient alphabet character
- 20 Pick up the tab
- 22 Splash of liquid
- 24 Storyline
- 27 Is
- 28 Part 2 of quote 33 Jurist Fortas
- 34 Rustic
- 35 Intuit
- 39 Pub purchase
- 41 Throat prob.
- 43 Battle souvenir
- 44 Church council 46 Eagle's nest
- 48 Dancer Miller
- 49 Part 3 of quote
- 52 Most of Mali
- 55 Blue nose

- 56 Egg-laying mammal
- 59 London flashlight
- 63 Lower voice
- 64 End of quote
- 67 Historical period
- 68 Forest denizen
- 69 Overhaul
- 70 Chance beginning? 71 Breaks off
- 72 Coined money
- 73 Part of IOU

DOWN

- 1 Formerly, formerly
- 2 Shakespearean
- 3 Vague amount
- 4 Beans spiller
- 5 Fire residue
- 6 Exploit
- 7 Daily report
- 8 Sting operation
- 9 Surgical
- instrument
- 10 Tenons' mates
- 11 Touches against 12 Composition for
- nine 13 Prophets
- 21 Mimic
- 23 WWII powers

- 25 Numbered composition
- 26 Dental deposit
- 28 File markers
- 29 Toe the line
- 30 Sharp
- 31 Mariah of music
- 32 Tips off
- 36 Final Four org.
- 37 Without: Fr.
- 38 Osprey's cousin
- 40 Turning parts
- 42 Semistable meson
- 45 Small rowboat
- 47 Biological subdivision
- 50 Odd-toed ungulates
- 51 "The Sopranos" producer
- 52 Black card
- 53 Comic Woody
- 54 Despised 57 Lone Star State
- sch. 58 PC command
- 60 Bank seizure, briefly
- 61 Driver's team
- 62 Fast one of a fable 65 Female GI, once
- 66 Guy's friend?



THE TECH Page 8

Photos From Tech Staff Members' Summers Around the Globe

(clockwise from bottom left)

Mysteriously uprighted rocks are seen at Sand Beach in Acadia National Park, Maine.

MIT students (left to right) YingHsuan Lin '10, William B. Yee '10, Cheuk L Leung '10, Chun-Kai Wang '12, Jia X. Wu '10, and Yu-Ju Chiu '11, posed in front of the "Lovers' Bridge" this July in Taichung, Taiwan.

Alex H. Chan G poses on the Great Wall in Beijing, China.

Balinese dive master Gede Sama holds up a sea cucumber while diving off the coast of Bali, Indonesia on June 9, 2008.

Spaniards celebrate the win of the European Cup in Puerta Jerez in Seville, Spain on June 29.

A boy is seen as a boat approaches a dock in Granada, Nicaragua this summer.







27, 2008 THE TECH Page 9





ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH



WATSON LEUNG



Page 10 THE TECH August 27, 2008

Jessop Discusses How Freshmen | IS&T: Upgrades Will Can Get Involved in Student Govt. Improve Reliability,

Jessop, from Page 1

So, with this broader prospective, we're able to collect a lot of information, and we're able to represent what it is that students want on any of these issues. So, really, we serve as a contact point, as a liaison, for the administration to get in touch with the students ..

Since being elected, I have had to learn about the incredible scope of all the things that the UA does, be it placing students on institute committees, such as [the Committee on Academic Performance] or Committee on Curricula, or these other very large chartered institute committees. We do it all, and, also, we throw fun events, like the Fall Festival and Spring Weekend, also sponsoring dozens of events all across campus for the undergraduates.

TT: In a previous interview with The Tech ... you described yourself as a "total outsider" to the UA. How do you think that will give you an advantage?

NJ: ... I said earlier that really, my role is connecting people and resources, looking at the systems in place, and seeing if they make sense, and, unlike other people in this organization who have grown accustom to the systems in place ... I have the advantage of coming from the outside to say, "Why does it work this way?" So, it seems I learn new things about my role literally everyday.

This background has really let me ask questions [like] "Why does it work this way?" and "Should it work this way?" Also, on the administrative front, everyone gives me the benefit of the doubt of having an impeccable record. So, I come in with a completely clean slate. As such, I am able to continue the relationships that [former UA President Martin Holmes '08] built and build them in my own way.

TT: What are some of your upcoming goals this year as UA Presi-

NJ: Really, this sort of splits into two pieces. There are the external goals and the internal goals.

Externally, I'm really committed toward student engagement, toward getting students at the table when big decisions are happening, toward making everyone feel that we're getting represented, that if we stand up for something, we will be heard. That's been making huge progress since I've been with the UA. ... [And] don't forget that there's dining out there. That's going to be a big issue.

Dining, integration of W1, handling the increase in enrollment, and, perhaps before any of those, helping the new Dean for Student Life. Dean Colombo, understand what MIT is so he can find his role and his way to better make change ... Those are the big things that are on the table coming in.

Internally this is where I the piece gets much more interesting ... more organizationally challenging. ... Within the government, it's about making the UA the leanest organization that we can. It's about making the UA an organization that doesn't rise and fall on the successes of the individuals, but rather, is a strong coherent body that works to-

We should have a new Web site rolling out in the next one to two weeks that will be functional, usable, pretty, and have great content. That's something I'm really excited about.

I've been working really closely with the heads of the other governments to present a much more unified front. In the past, there's been confusion, both within ourselves and within the administration, as to who do you talk to when there's an issue, and then they'll go talk to two separate government committees or entities that are similar, and they'll get conflicting responses ... When that happens, students as a whole lose because then it's unclear what it is that students want. By presenting a unified front ... we're going to make student government at MIT as a whole a lot more meaningful for the greater student body and the administration.

Noah S. Jessop '09

Major: Management, Mathematics Hometown: Castle Rock, Colorado

Age: 20

E-mail: njess@mit.edu

TT: What do you foresee are some of the biggest challenges that you face this year as UA President?

NJ: There's no lack of things to work on. There's no lack of resources to work on things with. The biggest challenge for me personally is going to be identifying what is the most important

I want everyone in this organization to feel like their time is well spent and everyone joining this organization to be happy to join the family. And that's a challenge just because the landscape changes so quickly, be it the issues changing, be it things outside of our control, or people's own changing interests. So, it's really putting the right people at the right place at the right time so that everyone has the best experience

TT: What would you suggest are ways for incoming freshmen who are concerned about something on campus to get involved with student government and the community?

NJ: First, there's the very overt roles of running for class council or running for senate within your dormitory ... Class council is more if you like event planning or if the issue you care about is class unity, class spirit, or MIT spirit. Beyond that, again, the UA has infinite resources. It's just a matter of putting the right people in the right places.

We have committees working on the scope of issues facing student life. If you say you are really passionate about a given issue, there's no reason why, if you want to help out, there's won't be a place for you. .. Identify what it is you're passionate about, see if somebody is already doing that, be it in government or some other organizations on campus, contact those people, and if not. come to senate and talk about it.

Come to UA exec meetings, which are open meetings that will travel through the different dorms during term. Come talk about it, and we will always have resources to put behind people who are passionate and excited about what they're do-

TT: Any general advice you'd share with freshmen?

NJ: ... I guess the most important part because it's time sensitive is go and meet as many people possible. I don't care if you like where you live, go walk around. Go walk to places that you'll never live. Go meet

This is one of the few times that you can walk anywhere on campus, stick out your hand with a smile and be welcome. ... Even if you don't live there, these are people who you are going to be taking classes with, be it for the next one, two, three, or even four years. And once you've met people, you can say hi to them. Once you say hi to them in a class where you don't know anyone else, you can sit next to them. Once you sit next to them, you can do problem sets together, and you can build your world and your MIT experience based off of meeting a lot of people. ...

Two, don't inundate yourself. No one says that you have to start by doing the same activities that you did in high school. There's no rule saying you have to get going, otherwise you'll never get ahead ... There's no rush to fill out your

Work, socialization, and personal projects will always expand and fill the hours of the day that you have. And, once your plate is full, you can decide if you want seconds. ...

Pick a place you want to live based on the people, not the room. Again—location, location, location. It doesn't matter what your room looks out onto, it matters who are the people outside your door ... This is the most important part because at 4 a.m., when you're working on a problem set, it's who's outside that matters, not what's outside your win-

TT: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

NJ: ... Take the classes you want to take, not the classes you think vou'll be successful in. And I say this because, first of all, for starters, you're on pass/no record, and your goal is to get as many Ps as possible. And it doesn't matter a hoot after

Two, you will never know what you're interested in if you constrain yourself only to things you think you're good at now. And, I guess that also applies to extracurriculars. Even though I said don't overload your plate, before your plate is overloaded, go to the first meeting of things. Try it out, and don't feel obligated to come back unless you like the people or you like the thing and you want to make it a part of your life ...

You don't have to be in a role to make a difference in the world you live in. The scale of which you make a difference is something that you can choose ... even on your own hall culture, you can make a difference and be a leader, and have a humongous impact on the people you work with everyday on any scale.

And the challenges facing all of us, be it a hall deciding how to spend a budget, be it the UA Senate deciding what to give money to, or a large corporation deciding what to invest in, the issues are exactly the same, and it comes down to a bunch of intelligent people making a decision about what's best for the group. ...

Interested in the community? Talk to me. I was a freshman. We all were. Don't ever feel like just because someone is older than you or has a title ... that they are unapproachable. You are exactly the same as all the people you see in campus, be they professors ... be they student leaders. They're just a few years ahead of you and come from exactly ... where you're sitting today.

Visit http://tech.mit.edu for the online edition of *The Tech*, including breaking news stories, advertising information, and additional content.

Internet Bandwidth

Upgrades, from Page 1

estimated that around 8 percent of students still use that system.

Under the new SIP system, students' MIT directory numbers will not be linked to a physical location, Collins said, providing mobility and allowing students to keep their numbers if they change rooms.

A few MacGregor and Burton-Conner students pointed out that the analog phone lines were useful for phone interviews if there was spotty cell phone reception; however, they also said they did not use their analog phones very often.

In a notice sent to residents, Housing suggested that students who still want a room line could pay for their own voice over IP (VoIP) service and acquire a VoIP phone. Without paying for a VoIP phone and the service, students will only be able to receive voice mail or forward calls from their SIP account.

As analog phone service is slowly dying away, the campus has seen a general increase in VoIP phones. IS&T has been experimenting with VoIP systems in the last two years, Regan said. Around 15–20 percent of traditional MIT business phones have transitioned to MIT VoIP since January 2008.

Upgrades provide faster Internet

The renovations will provide Burton-Conner, MacGregor, and Green Hall with the best Internet on campus in terms of reliability and speed, according to Regan.

Each dorm's existing 10-megabit shared network will be replaced by a switched gigabit network, increas-

ing the bandwidth available to each user. Also, the new wireless routers in each building will support the new 802.11n protocol with speeds of up to 300 Mbps.

According to Kyle Medbery, a project coordinator at IS&T, the new infrastructure will also support Power over Ethernet, a technology that allows certain devices such as IP phones to both draw power and receive data from Ethernet cables, making some power transformers unnecessary.

New coaxial cables for television sets will also be installed in the

The renovations were partially motivated by Housing's desire to provide quality Internet access for students wherever they are, according to Collins. He said that students use excellent network services in the main campus buildings but then go back to the dorms to inferior ser-

Last fall, Burton-Conner experienced a network outage for about a day when a drain leak damaged equipment in a telephone closet. Collins said that the placement of the new closets was a consideration in the renovations in the hopes of preventing such situations. Regan added that she anticipates the new system will prevent the service outages that some of the dorms have experienced in recent years.

Even if problems do occur, Regan said, "contemporary rooms and contemporary equipment will make any repairs much quicker."

IS&T will begin to upgrade other dorms and high-traffic areas on campus soon, Regan said.

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Aug. 5, 2008 and Aug. 24, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 4:29 p.m., Larceny of bicycle. W34 (120 Vassar St.), 8:45 p.m., Wallet stolen from men's locker room.
- W89 (291 Vassar St.), 7:07 p.m., Laptop stolen from Alpha Tao Omega (ATO).
- W35 (100 Vassar St.), 7:25 p.m., Wallet stolen. M35 (127 Mass. Ave.), 4:14 p.m., Laptop stolen from of-
- W89 (291 Vassar St.), 10:03 a.m., Report of theft of con-**Aug. 8:**
- struction material. E51 (70 Memorial Dr.), 9:59 p.m., Suspicious activity; several juveniles arrested for trespassing and related charges.
- Aug. 9: W16 (48 Rear Mass. Ave.), 10:19 p.m., Report of wallet stolen while attending a performance. W34 (120 Vassar St.), 11:59 p.m., Contract cleaner reports Aug. 10:
- past assault by employee of same contract service. Aug. 11: W35 (100 Vassar St.), 7:56 p.m., Wallet stolen from gym
- W35 (100 Vassar St.), 9:21 p.m., Wallet stolen from gym. W4 (320 Memorial Dr.), 9:28 a.m., Report of identity
- Aug. 15: W89 (291 Vassar St.), 4:07 p.m., Larceny of bicycle.
- Aug. 16: NW86 (70 Pacific St.), 4:28 p.m., Report of red 1998 Mustang Convertible stolen from garage.
- W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 11:58 a.m., Report of larceny of bi-Aug. 18: cycle. M37 (70 Vassar St.), 1:07 p.m., Larceny from building.
 - M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 5:43 p.m., Report of \$29 in cash stolen from office area
 - E25 (45 Carleton St.), 6:12 p.m., Handbag stolen from of-
- Aug. 19: M4 (128 Rear Memorial Dr.), 10:21 a.m., Report of male in the women's restroom W89 (291 Vassar St.), 11:08 a.m., Fraudulent use of credit
- W5 (350 Memorial Dr.), 11:52 a.m., Detectives observe an Aug. 20: individual stealing a bike; juvenile arrested for larceny.
- W89 (291 Vassar St.), 8:00 p.m., Report of stolen bicycle. PDT (97 Bay State Rd.), 6:04 p.m., Breaking and entering; Aug. 21:
 - laptop stolen. Sigma Chi (532 Beacon St.), 8:05 p.m., Breaking and entering; laptop stolen.
- W61 (450 Memorial Dr.), 11:49 a.m., Larceny from debit Aug. 22: bank account.
- W89 (291 Vassar St.), 5:59 p.m., Theft of bicycle. Aug. 24: DKE (403 Memorial Dr.), 4:00 p.m., Larceny of laptop. M32 (32 Vassar St.), 9:38 p.m., Malicious destruction; attempted theft of scooter.

COMPILED BY NICK SEMENKOVICH

August 27, 2008 THE TECH Page 11

Hey Parents!

Want to keep up with the news at your kid's new school?

Subscribe to The Tech!

United States Mail
1st Class 3rd Class
\$105 \$45

1 year \$105 \$45 2 years \$205 \$85

E-mail *circ@the-tech.mit.edu*to set up your subscription and
to get more information.



Page 12 THE TECH August 27, 2008

Attendees Hope Convention Will Inspire Students

DNC, from Page 1

out the concourse. Getting into the seating area required passing another security check, and my "Hall" press pass did not allow me to go in. I decided to find the unassigned

press area, rather than aimlessly wandering around.

The press center was set up in the practice court. Rows of tables were filled with press and laptops, all facing a large TV showing what was going on in the convention. After going through the trouble of getting a pass to the arena, I was not going to just sit down and watch it on TV. Besides, I didn't see any open seats. I exchanged my "Hall" pass for a 30-minute "Floor" pass, which would allow me to go to the

lower level. Yes, I thought, I'll get to hobknob with Congressmen and the cast of "The Daily Show."

I entered the 100 level of the stadium and quickly discovered there really was no open floor space in the convention. I was stuck in a walkway, along with my fellow refugees, er, attendees. Several elevated press platforms were near the walkway, holding celebrities including Wolf Blitzer, Katie Couric, and David Gregory. But there was no time for star gazing, because the security kept yelling at us to keep moving. The job was made tougher when Caroline Kennedy started speaking, and several people stopped moving to listen to the speech or to take photos.

The state delegations were arranged almost randomly, but there was a clear pecking order: Colorado, Illinois, Delaware were up front. Where was Massachusetts? It was up a level. I tried to make my way up there, but of course, that was above my "Floor" pass permissions. I exited the seating area, and turned in my "Floor" pass before the 30 minutes was up. I had enough of being treated like cattle.

It turned out that my "Hall" pass would get me into the 300 level, so I headed up there to watch the surprise speech by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). No seats were available, but I was able to get into another walkway, and security was not present to tell me to keep moving. Kennedy clearly captivated the audience. Everyone was watching, and back in the hallways, people stopped talking and were all focused on the numerous television screens. Maybe this is why people go to conventions.

I went about asking people why they decided to go to the convention. Many were excited about Barack Obama's candidacy. Mark Epstein, from New York, thought it was "time for a change," and that conventions served to get the base excited. He came as a guest of a delegate, and he felt that going to a convention was a "life experience everyone should experience.'

Lindsay McLaughlin is an Obama supporter, as well as a registered lobbyist from Washington, DC. He was clear on delineating the separation of the two roles. He felt he was attending as a supporter, not a lobbyist, and he notes that he's been canvassing for Obama on his own time. The convention will "celebrate [Obama's] candidacy" as well as help America get "comfortable with Obama," he said.

So, why should college students, especially MIT students, care about this convention?

"Students should care about the future," said Lorraine Hariton, a delegate from Palo Alto, Calif. A convention is just "one element of the election," and students should make sure to vote.

Her son, Glen Weyl, a postdoc at Harvard University, chimed in that the convention can help inspire MIT students to find solutions to the global climate and national health care problems. MIT students, in recent years, have been lured by Wall Street, and there needs to be more private initiative to go into public service, he said.

Innovation and education are the way to solve our problems, Hariton added.

Hariton was sporting a "Hillary Supporter for Obama" button. I asked her about the reported rift between Hillary Clinton and Obama supporters. The press exaggerated the divide, she said. As an example, her son pointed out a fundraising event she held for Obama with Clinton supporters. The press played it as a conspiracy to stab Obama in the back, Weyl said.

The planned roll call vote for Clinton is an attempt at unity, not division, Hariton said.

Another Clinton supporter, Phyllis Hunt from Columbus, Ohio, also agreed. She "loved her," but after seeing his speech in Germany, she respected him for the same reasons she respected Clinton, she said. There were a few people at the convention with "Hillary for President" shirts, but it did not seem like they were a large contingent.

I began making my way out of the convention, having seen enough of the Pensi Center and getting the quotes to make the editors happy. On my way out, I saw former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. After I figured out who he was, I tried to chase him down, but he disappeared into the seating area, which was above my "Hall" pass. Former presidential candidate Bill Richardson was doing interviews and signing autographs. He attracted a lot more attention than Mineta.

My convention experience was educational. I had the opportunity to see inside the seating area, and I realized the floor is really crowded. I got to hear two Kennedys speak in person. Other than spotting some famous Democrats, it wasn't too much different from watching it on TV. I'll watch the next two days from the comfort of my own couch, rather than dealing with security and never finding an open seat anywhere in the Pepsi Center. As for the Obama speech at Inveso Field? That's a different story. I'll be OK with standing up for that.

David D. Hsu '98 is a former Tech Editor in Chief.



William Blaine Richardson III is seen in an interview during the Democratic National Convention on Monday.



A Kennedy sign is seen at the Democratic National Convention in support of Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).



Lorraine Hariton (left), a delegate from Palo Alto, Calif., and her son Glen Weyl (center) attend the Democratic National Convention on Monday.

August 27, 2008 THE TECH Page 13

High School Senior.

Parents' Custodial

Account.

College Freshman.

My Own Checking
Account.

GET A FREE GIFT

when you open a checking account in the Citibank® Student Account relationship package.

Get a bank account that meets all your needs. The Citibank Student Account. Designed for the college life.

- Fee-Free checking account while you're enrolled in college.1
- No fees for the use of any Citibank or non-Citibank ATM in the U.S.²
- Anytime access to your account online, over the phone or at any of our 19,000 ATMs in the U.S.
- Free Citibank Debit MasterCard® with rewards points for every purchase. You can also enroll your account in ThankYou® Network, our no-fee rewards program and get ThankYou Points for your debit card purchases.³
- Extra rewards points for a good GPA with Citi® mtvU credit card.⁴

Visit any one of our 31 Citibank Financial Centers in Boston and its suburbs. Call **800-635-8327** to find out the nearest location to your college.

Citi never sleeps[™]



www.students.citibank.com

1. No monthly maintenance and per-check fees as long as you are enrolled in college. After the expected date of your graduation, your account will be converted to the Citibank Account pricing package, which is subject to monthly maintenance and per-check fees when a minimum balance requirement is not met.

2. Fees charged to you by other institutions for your transactions on non-Citibank ATMs are beyond Citibank's control.

3. Separate enrollment of checking account in ThankYou Network required. ThankYou Checking accounts and points for banking offered through Citibank, N.A., Member FDIC. Enrollment and participation are subject to terms and conditions. Participation limited to customers who are either citizens or resident aliens of the United States with a valid U.S. taxpayer identification number. Taxes, if any, are customer's responsibility. Eligible debit card purchases are subject to qualifications and annual point accrual limits in terms and conditions.

4. Citibank credit cards are issued by Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. and Citibank USA, N.A.

© 2008 Citibank. Citibank, N.A. Member FDIC. Citi, Citibank with Arc Design and ThankYou are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc. Citi never sleeps is a service mark of Citigroup Inc. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated

662_061708_flyr_BStu.ind

THE TECH Page 14 August 27, 2008

MIT Discovery About Insect Life | New Delta Dental Plan May Open Door to New Products | Covers Preventive Care

By Michelle Sipics

One afternoon, John W.M. Bush, MIT math guru, ventured to a pond to collect insects known as water striders for his research. It wasn't until he returned to his lab that he discovered an interloper in his bucket.

"I accidentally caught a backswimmer while I was lunging for a water strider," recalled the associate professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

An insect capable of diving into water and staying there indefinitely, the backswimmer has long befuddled scientists. So Bush set out to solve the mystery of how backswimmers do what they do.

It turns out they breathe underwater using the same mechanism that lets water striders skitter on top: water-repellant hairs that create a cushion between insect and water. The backswimmer traps a thin layer of air between its body and the hairs, creating an external lung that keeps its breathing holes from get-

Oxygen from the surrounding water diffuses into the air bubble, replenishing the insect's supply.

Earlier this month in the Journal of Fluid Mechanics, Bush described how the bubbles remain intact even as the insects dive deeper and water pressure increases. Pollution, though, can change the wetting properties of

the hairs, affecting their ability to

Humans won't be exploring the depths this way anytime soon. Still, Duke University biologist Steven Vogel said that with engineers and biologists collaborating more and more, potential applications are nearly limitless.

"Engineers and biologists are both dealing with complex systems," said Vogel, who was not involved in the study. "We're really talking about the engineering of life.'

Bush envisions small underwater vehicles, powered by motors fueled by oxygen supplied by such a bubble. "This is a means by which these animals are getting power," he said.

Insurance, from Page 1

plan that MIT students were shut out of last year, the MIT plan focuses on preventive care. Exams, cleanings, and x-rays are covered up to twice a year with no copay, as long as students use an in-network dentist. Other procedures, including fillings and emergency work, are offered at a slight discount, again, only if performed by an in-network dentist.

There are 100 in-network dentists within five miles of the 02139 zip code, according to the Delta Dental of Massachusetts Web site. MIT Dental is not one of them.

For checkups and cleanings by out-of-network dentists, the plan pays a small fraction; procedures by out-ofnetwork dentists are not covered.

To enroll in the plan, students enter their name, date of birth, gender, and address on the graddental.mit.edu Web site. No social security number is asked for, a point negotiated by the GSC in deference to MIT's many international students, some of whom do not yet have their numbers, or lack work provisions entirely. Registration ends on Sept. 15, after which students who have signed up will be locked into the plan and billed on their October account statement.

Most universities in the Boston area offer their graduate students some sort of dental insurance; MIT has long been an exception. The new MIT plan is identical to what Harvard offers its students (though Harvard charges about \$10 more).

In previous years, students could also buy a dental plan run by the Boston University School of Dentistry, whose dentists-in-training would perform oral exams, cleanings, and x-rays. Fillings were also free. But last September, the BU plan closed its doors to the MIT community, leaving grad students in the lurch.

At that point, the GSC made obtaining affordable dental insurance a top priority, said Tanguy Chau G, last year's GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee co-chair.

Chau and Wang sent out a cost-ofliving survey in October and found that 76 percent of graduate students did not have dental insurance. "That really told us that a lot of students need dental care," Chau said.

Chau and co-chair Robert Wang G searched for coverage options, but really only considered the plan from

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and

start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel,

campus or office consultation. Call:

James Dennis Leary, Esq.

321-544-0012

alongside survey results showing that 72 percent of uninsured graduate students would like such a plan. It wasn't the first dental plan pitched to the administration over the

Delta Dental, Chau said, even though

services by MIT Dental would not be

Delta to become an in-network pro-

vider, but Chau said "it did not make

financial sense" for MIT Dental to

to the Academic Council in January,

Chau and Wang presented the plan

MIT Dental had been invited by

years, but it was the first plan the administration found feasible - because Delta Dental and not MIT would bear the risk of insuring students.

Delta is the largest dental insurance provider in the nation, and offers several different types of coverage. MIT also uses it to administer its employee dental plan, which has more generous benefits and is necessarily self-insured by the Institute.

MIT declined to extend the employee dental plan to graduate students, believing it too risky, Chau

"It's a bit of a tricky situation, the student population — it's very different from the employee population," Chau said. "Here we're insuring people who come in and out in four years, and there are lots of international students, and people who do not necessarily have a history of dental care."

A preventive care plan is less risky because it does not cover dental procedures. Students who come to MIT needing thousands of dollars' worth of dental work will still end up shouldering most of the cost.

GSC President Oaz Nir wants full dental coverage for graduate students, and sees the current plan as a stepping stone to eventually getting it.

"The plan that we've achieved right now, it's a good step forward, but it is only the first step," Nir said. "[The current plan] provides diagnostic and preventive care. In order to get a comprehensive plan, it would have to be insured by MIT, and in order to work with MIT, we need to come up with reliable data about what services MIT students use."

Reliable usage data are important for calculating dental premiums in a self-insured plan. The current plan will track these statistics, and help the GSC make a case for a comprehensive coverage in the future.

Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman '72 wrote in an e-mail, "It's impossible to say now what future dental coverage for grad students will be. We're taking one step at a time."

For now though, MIT students finally have a dental plan to call their



READ THIS AD.

OR, DON'T.

An exercise in freedom.

By deciding to continue reading, you've just demonstrated a key American freedom~choice. And, should you choose to turn the page, take a nap or go dye your hair blue, that's cool too.

Because while rights like freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of the press get all the attention in the Constitution, the smaller liberties you can enjoy every day in America are no less important or worthy of celebration.

Your right to backyard barbeques, sleeping in on Sundays and listening to any darned music you please can be just as fulfilling as your right to vote for the president. Maybe even more so because you can enjoy these freedoms personally and often.

So take a moment to celebrate all the little liberties you enjoy in America. Or, forget all this and choose to take them for granted~it's a free country.

Freedom. Appreciate it. Cherish it. Protect it.

MIT STUDENTS!

Do you want FREE theater, music & dance tickets? Do you want to see great visual art for FREE?

Well then, you should bookmark this page:

http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/ freetickets

Harvard Investigates Univ. Police Following Allegations of Racism

By Tracy Jan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard University will launch an examination of the campus Police Department following long-running complaints that officers have unfairly treated black students and professors and, in an incident this month, a black high school student working

at Harvard.

President Drew Gilpin Faust announced Tuesday that she has appointed an independent, six-member committee to review the diversity training, community outreach, and recruitment efforts of Harvard police, the first review of its kind in more than a decade. In recent weeks, black student and faculty leaders have been pressing the university to address what they view as racial profiling by the predominantly white campus police force, which Harvard

Ralph Martin, former Suffolk district attorney and managing partner of the Boston office of the Bingham McCutchen law firm, will lead the committee, which will start work next week.

"All of us share an interest in sustaining constructive relations between our campus police and the broader Harvard community, in order to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all faculty, students, staff, and visitors," Faust wrote in an e-mail to senior university administrators and faculty. "... I am confident that this group's efforts will help the university address this important set of issues in a constructive spirit and forthright manner."

Black faculty members praised Faust's initiative, saying it signaled that she will address the issue thoroughly and effectively. Some said the university should go further and establish a permanent police community board to ease tension on both sides.

Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree said black students arrive on campus aiming for academic success but instead find themselves under suspicion.

"I've been hosting, moderating, and mediating meetings between Harvard's black students and university police for much of the last 20 years, and it always stems from an individual incident when African-Americans appear to be the subject of racial profiling by the police department," Ogletree said Tuesday. "The problem is a persistent one, because there's still this unfortunate assumption that equates the color of a person's skin with involvement in criminality."

Harvard police officials would not respond to questions about specific incidents, but issued a statement Tuesday saying they hope the review will help the private force better serve Harvard's diverse population. "We look forward to any recommendations generated by the process that will help ensure the HUPD remains as effective as possible," the statement said.

Faust was unavailable for comment Tuesday. In her memo, she wrote that the review is being launched "partly in response to con-

cerns expressed internally."

Earlier this month, she noted, officers confronted a person using tools to remove a lock from a locked bicycle. The person, whom others familiar with the case have identified as a black Boston high school student working on the Harvard campus this summer, owned the bicycle, and was trying to cut the lock because the key had broken off in the lock. The two officers involved have been placed on administrative leave, pending a separate investigation into the matter, said a source familiar with the

Faculty and students say previous incidents have fanned tension with police.

In spring 2007, officers interrupted a field day on the Radcliffe Quad sponsored by two black student groups. Police asked whether the young men and women were Harvard students and whether they had permission to be there, even though they had a permit.

And in 2004, police stopped S. Allen Counter, a prominent neuroscience professor, as he was walking to his office across Harvard Yard because they mistook him for a black robbery suspect.

Earlier this month, in response to inquiries from the Globe, Police Chief Francis Riley said through a spokesman that the department has begun conversations with the black student organizations to address "bias incidents" but would not respond to a request for statistics on how often black students and faculty are stopped.

Alneada Biggers, president of the Association of Black Harvard Women, said the review shows Faust is aware of black students' concerns about police.

"It's much needed," Biggers said.
"If you talk to any student in the black community, they'll talk about being targeted."

J. Lorand Matory - who co-chairs the Association of Black Faculty, Administrators and Fellows - called the police review a "thoughtful response."

"I hope this committee will be able to initiate a thoughtful conversation that we have not been able to accomplish to date," said Matory, a professor of anthropology and African and African-American studies.

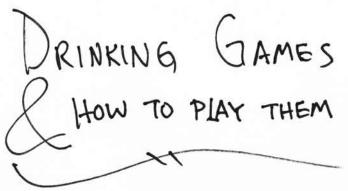
Martin said he hopes the committee will present its findings and recommendations by December.

"Any great institution is never afraid to be introspective," Martin said. "This is really an effort to identify what the university police do well, as well as what the areas of improvement potentially are. We're going to go at it as objectively as possible."

In addition to Martin, members of the committee are William Lee, a former Harvard overseer; Mark Moore, a professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government; Nancy Rosenblum, Harvard professor of ethics in politics and government; Matthew Sundquist, president of the Harvard Undergraduate Council; and David Wilkins, a Harvard law professor.

The Flow of Things

Brought to you by Campus Life



BEIRUT - A CITY IN LEBANON: AVOID THIS PLEASE

BEER PONG - KINDA LIKE

SKI BALL W/ BEER

ACTUALLY NO... JUST GET

THE BALL IN THE CUP

KINGS - ARBITRARY RULES + DRINKING. FIRST PERSON TO GET A KING SHOULD MAKE ARULE: STOP PLAYING KINGS & JUST DRINK

DRINKING. BETTER GAME:

HEADS / TAILS - HEADS YOU

DRINK / TAILS I DRINK

NEVER HAVE I EVER - WHEN
YOU GET TO FIND OUT THAT THE
QUIET COURSE 18 GIRL NEXT TO
YOU IS INTO S+M

EDWARD FORTYHANDS-DUCT TAPE

RMALT LIQUOR. TIP: WEAR

SWEAT PANTS!

OF-COCKTAIL OF THE DAY &

"THE MICHAEL McGRAW-HERDEG"

1. Part Cointreau

1 Part Vodka

2 Parts Cranberry

Dash Créme de Cassis

Three blackberries to garnish

SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse Collects IWLCA Academic Accolades

For the sixth straight season the MIT women's

lacrosse team qualified for the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) Merit Squad as it posted the third-highest GPA of 56 programs. Bryn Mawr

College led the way with an average of 3.49, followed by the University of Rochester (3.453), and the Engineers (3.4).

Individually, Laura C. Watson '08 earned her second selection to the Academic Honor Roll as Stephanie V. Brenman '09 and Lily He '09 were first-time honorees. Since the inception of MIT's women's lacrosse program in 1993, the Engineers have had at least one award winner every season.

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) foes Mount Holyoke College, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College were named to the Division III Honor Squad; each had one representative on the Academic Honor Roll. —Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Tech Tennis Receives ITA Honors

MIT was the only NEWMAC institution to receive All-Academic Team accolades for both its men's and women's programs as announced by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). The women's squad collected its sixth award while the men received their first nod.

Individually, Yi Wang '09 and Karina N. Pikhart '09 picked up their third Scholar-Athlete honor as Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Emily J. Onufer '10 were selected for the second time. The accolade was Hansen's second from the ITA this past season as she was named to its All-America Team following a 1-1 performance at the NCAA Singles Championship. Sheena Bhalla '11 and Sonya Makhni '11 were first-time honorees for the Engineers.

Representing MIT on the men's side was Ryan W. Castonia '09, Jonathan F. Farm '09, David E. Iba '09, Vinith Misra '08, Peden P. Nichols '09, Michael R. Price G, and Ken Van Tilburg '11.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Coach of MIT Sport Taekwondo Coaches USA Collegiate Team

By Aaron Sampson SPORTS EDITOR

On July 16-20, MIT Sport Taekwondo Coach Dan Chuang traveled to Belgrade, Serbia to serve as a US National Collegiate Taekwondo Team Coach. The US Team consisted of five coaches and sixteen athletes (eight men and eight women). The sixteen competitors from the US were part of a field of 285 athletes from 42 nations competing in the 2008 World University Taekwondo Championships.

The 2008 championships marked the tenth time the event has been held and the first time it has taken place in Serbia. The event, which is held every two years, draws collegiate athletes from around the world including Taekwondo powerhouses like Korea, Taiwan, Iran, China and

The competitors on the US team earned their team spots through a selection process that required placing in the top 4 at the National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships on April 26 at Stanford University, and then coming out on top of their weight class at the US National Collegiate Team Trials in Highlands Ranch, Colorado on May 17.

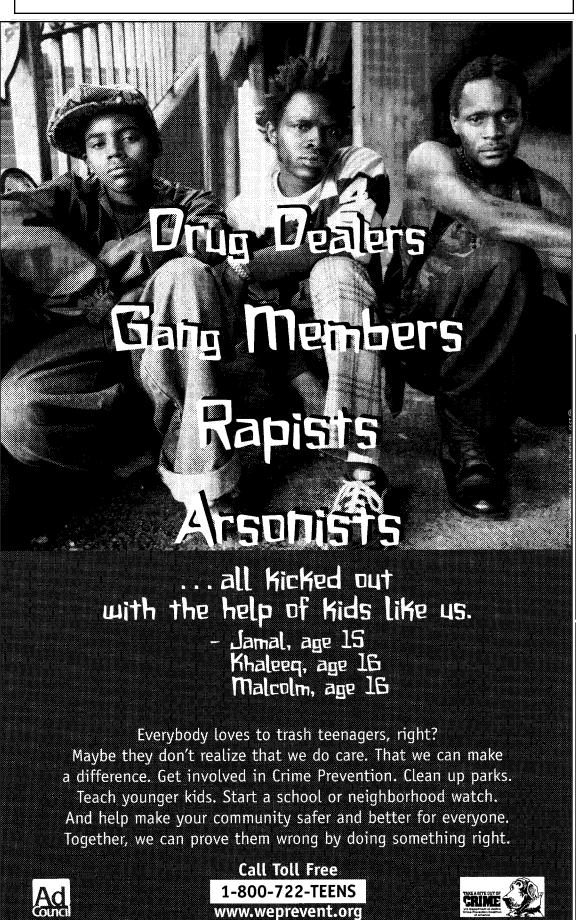
The competitors were supported by a team of ten officials: coaches, managers, referees, and a team doctor. Chuang served as the ringside coach for four athletes: Jermaine James from Edison College, Nir Moriah from Rice University, Luke Ford from Nova Southeastern University,

and bronze medalist John Duhart from Menlo College. Among these athletes, James and Moriah both reached the quarterfinals, Ford lost a close match to Taekwondo powerhouse Korea, and Duhart won his bronze medal after winning matches against Kenya and Egypt, but falling to the Korean gold medalist in the semifinals. Duhart's medal was the only medal for the US team on the first day of the competition. Overall, the US team came away with two bronze medals and one silver medal.

Chuang described his perspective on working with the athletes: "It was a great experience working with some of the best Taekwondo athletes in the country. My role was basically to establish a rapport with the athletes during the preparation period of the competition, provide technical support during the training sessions, and to give tactical advice during the matches. I had worked with Jermaine James before, but the other athletes, we had to get on the same page quickly. I thought they all performed very well and gave it everything they had in the ring.'

Now back in the states, Chuang is leading the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club into another competitive season in the Ivy/Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League, kicking off with MIT's home tournament on Saturday, October 25.

More information on the World University Championships is available online at http://www.usa-tae-



Depression is a serious threat

to anyone that has a brain.

This space donated by The Tech

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

Public Service message from SA\VE (Suicide Awareness\Voices of Education)

aot sperm's

SPERM DONORS NEEDED

Healthy MEN in college or with a college degree wanted for our sperm donor program.

Minimal time commitment

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family.

Receive free health and genetic screenings.

APPLY ONLINE:

www.SPERMBANK.com



To find out more and apply, visit our webpage at: http://web.mit.edu/ist/helpdesk/hiring



Massachusetts Institute of Tech

ology

UNTREATED

http://www.save.org

DEPRESSION

Computing Help Desk